Case 2:20-bk-21022-BR Doc 519 Filed 07/26/21 Entered 07/26/21 10:18:03 Desc

TO THE HONORABLE BARRY RUSSELL, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:

Elissa D. Miller, the chapter 7 trustee (the "Trustee") for the bankruptcy estate of Girardi Keese, hereby submits the following objections to the Declaration of Evan C. Borges ("Borges") and Exhibit 3 attached thereto in support of Reply in support of Motion for Reconsideration [Docket No. 511] filed by Erika Girardi to reconsider the appointment order of the Law Offices of Ronald Richards & Associates, A.P.C., as Special Litigation Counsel. The Borges Declaration and Exhibit 3 attached thereto are objectionable for several reasons, and should be disregarded in their entirety.

I. SUMMARY OF OBJECTIONS TO BORGES DECLARATION AND EXHIBIT 3 ATTACHED THERETO

Firstly, Ms. Girardi's reply in support of her motion for reconsideration was untimely. Some of her filings were after the 4:00 p.m deadline and should not be considered on that basis alone. The Special Litigation Counsel and Trustee incorporate the same objections and admissibility problems as were raised in the objections to Exhibits 1 and 2 [Doc. 499].

Secondly, the Borges Declaration now seeks to introduce new evidence. The introduction of new evidence in reply papers is improper where the nonmovant does not have the opportunity to respond to the new evidence. (See *J.G. v. Douglas County Sch. Dist.*, 552 F.3d 786, 803 n.14 (9th Cir. 2008) ("Where new evidence is presented in a reply to a motion for summary judgment, the district court should not consider the new evidence without giving the [non-]movant an opportunity to respond.") (quoting *Provenz v. Miller*, 102 F.3d 1478, 1483 (9th Cir. 1996)). Courts routinely apply this rule to exclude from consideration new evidence presented for the first time in a movant's reply brief. (See, e.g., *Wallace v. Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.*, Case No. SACV 08-1463, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 110140, at *18-19 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 23, 2009) (declining to consider new evidence presented for the first time on reply and noting that "[t]he opposing party should not have to incur the cost and effort of additional filings . . . because the movants deliberately, or more likely inadvertently, held back part of their case") (quotations

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omitted); SEC v. Private Equity Mgmt. Group, Inc., Case No. CV 09-2901, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 75158, at *21 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 10, 2009) (declining to consider new evidence submitted for the first time on reply); Iconix, Inc. v. Tokuda, 457 F. Supp. 2d 969, 976 (N.D. Cal. 2006) (sustaining objection to new evidence presented in reply brief); Wolfe v. Deeb, No. C 04-5164 CRB, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4873, at *2 n.1 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 22, 2005) (court "did not rely" on new arguments submitted in reply); Davenport v. M/V New Horizon, No. C 01-0933 SBA, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 26811, at *7-8. (N.D. Cal. Dec. 17,

2002) ("the Court refuses to consider the evidence Tosco presented in support of its reply brief").)

Under well-established precedent, the Court should not consider the new evidence that Ms. Girardi attempts to introduce for the first time on reply.

To permit Ms. Girardi to raise new arguments and submit new evidence and authority in its reply brief would be a violation of the Trustee's due process rights. Had Ms. Girardi raised these issues in her moving papers, Trustee would have had an opportunity to address and rebut them.

Thirdly, as was the case in the Declaration of Evan Borges in support of Motion for Reconsideration and Exhibits 1 and 2 attached thereto, this Borges Declaration submitted in support of Ms. Girardi's reply and Exhibit 3 are similarly inadmissible.

Ms. Girardi has again selectively compiled various unauthenticated tweets and internet postings while attributing them to Mr. Richards in violation of the rules governing evidence. For example, the Declaration of Evan Borges fails to lay the proper foundation for any of the postings attached to Exhibit 3. There is no assertion that the declarant, Mr. Borges, prepared the compilation himself. The declarant is not a Twitter user to the best of counsel's knowledge or an expert on Twitter extractions.

Even assuming arguendo that these unauthenticated tweets are admissible, they are not relevant. They do not show that Ms. Girardi was contacted directly. There was no communication to Ms. Girardi- no one directly messaged her which would be the only way to contact her directly. Also, it is factually impossible as to her purported account.

Her counsel is obviously ignorant about Twitter. Had he bothered to review his client's purported account, @erikajayne, he would have realized that her purported account does not allow anyone to direct message her. It is a public account only. It does not allow private communications from anyone from the outside world. Only his client can initiate direct communications on the Twitter platform by her own settings. Under Ms. Girardi's view, an attorney would violate the anti-contact rule by responding to her false statements about their cases every time they responded to a reporter's inquiry or issued a statement in response. There is no ethical rule that was violated.

Accordingly, Ms. Girardi's reply in support of her motion for reconsideration lacks any admissible evidence. See *Wady v. Provident Life & Accident Ins. Co. of Am.*, 216 F.Supp.2d 1060, 1064 (C.D. Cal. 2002) (excluding documents where proponent of the evidence "has no personal knowledge of who maintains the website, who authored the documents, or the accuracy of their contents").

For the foregoing reasons, the Trustee requests that the Court disregard the Declaration of Evan Borges and Exhibit 3 in its entirety. The Borges Declaration and the proffered evidence submitted with it are inadmissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence, as set forth above and in the chart below.

| <u>Obj. #</u> | Statement: | Objection: | Ruling: |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| ¶ (pg.: | | | |
| <u>line)</u> | | | |
| #1. | "Attached hereto as Exhibit 3 is a | Fed. R. Evid. 402, 701, | [] |
| ¶2 45:9- | compilation of Ronald Richards's | 802 | sustained |
| 11 | ("Mr. Richards") tweets and | There is neither | |
| | images from Mr. Richards's Twitter | foundation nor personal | [] |
| | page regarding this proceeding | knowledge for | overruled |
| | and individuals involved in this | declarant's assertions. | |

| Case | 2:20-bk-21022-BR | Doc 519 | Filed 07/26/21 | Entered 07/26/21 10:18:03 | Desc |
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| | | Main Document Page 5 of 12 | | | |

| 1 | | proceeding dating back to July 16, | The statements and | |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 2 | | 2021." | exhibit 3 are | |
| 3 | | | inadmissible hearsay. | |
| 4 | | | There is no evidentiary | |
| 5 | | | support and declarant | |
| 6 | | | cannot testify as to | |
| 7 | | | what a third party said | |
| 8 | | | out of court. | |
| 9 | #2. | "The images comprising Exhibit 3 | Fed. R. Evid. 402, 701, | [] |
| 10 | | are true and accurate depictions of | 802 | sustained |
| 11 | ¶3 45:12- | Mr. Richards's tweets and Twitter | There is neither | |
| 12 | 13 | profile." | foundation nor personal | [] |
| 13 | | | knowledge for | overruled |
| 14 | | | declarant's assertions. | |
| 15 | | <u> </u> | | |

CONCLUSION

The materials challenged in these objections should be deemed inadmissible and disregarded by the Court.

Dated: July 26, 2021 Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICES OF RONALD RICHARDS & ASSOCIATES, APC

WILSON ELSER MOSKOWITZ EDELMAN & DICKER LLP

By: <u>/s/ Ronald Richards</u>
Ronald Richards
Robert Cooper

PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT

| l am over the age of 18 PO Box 11480 Beverly Hills, CA 9021 | | cy case or adversary proceeding. My business address is: |
|--|---|---|
| A true and correct copy Evidentiary Objections | of the foregoing document entit to Reply Brief | led (specify): |
| | | |
| will be served or was se the manner stated belo | | ers in the form and manner required by LBR 5005-2(d); and (b) in |
| Orders and LBR, the fo July 26, 2021, I checke | regoing document will be served d the CM/ECF docket for this ba | ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF) : Pursuant to controlling General by the court via NEF and hyperlink to the document. On (<i>date</i>) nkruptcy case or adversary proceeding and determined that the to receive NEF transmission at the email addresses stated below: |
| | | X Service information continued on attached page |
| case or adversary proce first class, postage prep | , I served the following per eeding by placing a true and cor | rsons and/or entities at the last known addresses in this bankruptcy rect copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States mail, Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that mailing to the document is filed. |
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| for each person or entit following persons and/o such service method), l | y served): Pursuant to F.R.Civ.lor entities by personal delivery, coy facsimile transmission and/or | P. 5 and/or controlling LBR, on (<i>date</i>) June 23, 2021, I served the overnight mail service, or (for those who consented in writing to email as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is |
| | | ☐ Service information continued on attached page |
| l declare under penalty | of perjury under the laws of the | United States that the foregoing is true and correct. |
| July 26, 2021 | Ronald Richards | /s Ronald Richards |
| Date | Printed Name | Signature |
| | | |

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